



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 521

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 26, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 521 is to assure more equitable distribution of state aid to school districts with minority and poor students through the use of contemporary data in the calculation of state aid.

Under current law, the number of formula students in a district is determined by data collected on the fall school district membership report. However, this fall membership report does not collect data on the number of students in poverty or the number of students who have limited English proficiency. This data is not collected by the Department of Education until the spring of each school year.

State aid for each year is certified in the February preceding the school year for which it will be paid. It is calculated on the basis of the most recent data available. The result is that for any given year, state aid is based on the number of formula students the school district had the prior school year (as reported on the fall membership report), and the number of poverty and limited English proficiency students the school district had two years prior to state aid payment (because the prior school year data hasn't been collected at the time of state aid certification).

For school districts with growing numbers of limited English proficiency and poverty students, the use of two-year old data contributes to insufficient funding; alternatively, school districts with shrinking numbers of such students receive excess funding.

LB 521 requires reporting of poverty and limited English proficiency data on the fall membership report, and defines poverty students and limited English proficiency students as the number of students reported on the fall membership report.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Gwen Howard